

conditions. He orchestrated the largest transfer of wealth from middle class families to rich families.

And Trump has done nothing in the face of epidemic levels of gun violence and devastating impacts of climate change.

Why is Trump lying about a national emergency at the border? He is doing it to distract the American people from the fact that he has no plan to improve healthcare, improve our schools, or do one damn thing for working people in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SHERRILL). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REMEMBERING THE HON. WALTER B. JONES, JR.

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in memory of our friend, Walter Jones, congressman from North Carolina.

Walter was a kind, gentle, sweet soul of a man, who I admired even in the brief time we had to serve here together.

I found him to be a man of integrity who always put what he thought was right for the people of his district and this country first.

Sometimes he had a vote he might regret, but he did everything he could to make that right.

He went so far as to make the families of a fallen soldier feel that much more comfortable with a letter—to every one that he could possibly do—showing compassion and showing that at least one congressman knows what their pain is.

So, to his family; his wife, Joe Anne; and his daughter Ashley; all his constituents and friends and neighbors in North Carolina, our hearts are with you at the loss of a man whose main goal was to please God and walk with Jesus Christ. We admire him, and we will miss him.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my relief that the House of Representatives has passed a bipartisan compromise that keeps our government open, secures our border, and upholds our values.

Now, this is not an agreement that either party would have written on its own, but rather than funding for an ineffective border wall, this bill, instead, prioritizes border security funding for methods and technologies that have proven effective.

This bill also rejects irresponsible budget cuts and, instead, invests additional dollars in important priorities

like funding for economic development assistance programs, environmental protection, and transportation infrastructure.

I want to thank all of the conferees for working together to forge a bipartisan consensus to fund government, invest in our priorities, and keep our country safe.

It is about time that Congress gets to work on more legislative priorities that will strengthen our families, strengthen our communities, and strengthen our economy. That is what the American people elected us to do, and I hope my colleagues will join me in these efforts going forward.

□ 2115

ISSUES OF THE DAY

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I, too, miss my friend Walter Jones. I just greatly treasured the hour each week we spent together visiting. It was a fitting tribute today at his funeral.

I do want to address this bill we just passed. I had hoped to vote for it after I was hearing, well, it is not much money; it is less than \$2 billion. But the trouble is there are provisions in here that are going to make it difficult to remove anybody who is here if they have got a child in there.

And, yes, I know, there is language that says if it is based on information shared by HHS, so that means they are going to be covered up with discovery requests, FOIA requests, probably people will find Obama judges who let people out.

This was not a good bill in the end. That is why I had to vote “no.”

HUMANITARIAN COMPROMISE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this bill that we came to have to fix as a Republican bill was a compromise, but it was a compromise with humanitarianism and passion and compassion.

This border security and funding bill that Democrats fixed did some good things. In particular, it raised the number to 100,000 alternative detention sites for women and children; it provided healthcare where there was no healthcare so that little children would not die at the border; and it prevented ICE from using data to deport people who are trying to pick up their children.

The good news is our Federal employees will not be held as hostages, and we have given them a 1.9 percent raise. As well, we provided for Food for Peace, for people who are struggling around the world, \$1.7 billion.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, we provided \$423 million for the Byrne Grant; \$178 million to address

sexual assault kits and other DNA; \$100 million for STOP School Violence; \$497 million, Madam Speaker, for the Violence Against Women Act; and \$75 million for gun control, or at least the checks for background.

Madam Speaker, this is a humanitarian bill, and I ask my colleagues to recognize it.

PASS UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECK LEGISLATION

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, it is Valentine's Day, and we have all spent the evening together, which is kind of funny. We did it in the service of keeping the government open with a bill that funds the government in a strong, bipartisan vote, and that is a good thing.

But, Madam Speaker, Valentine's Day will never again be a truly happy day because, of course, it is the 1-year anniversary of the Douglas shootings in Florida in which 17 young people, with their lives ahead of them, had those lives snuffed out at the end of a gun.

It is a particularly poignant moment for me and for those of us from Connecticut because we still can't forget, of course, the 20 children, 6 to 7 years old, and six adult staff who lost their lives in December of 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

So, Madam Speaker, I just rise to point out that we are hearing a lot tonight about an emergency declaration; and if 30,000 to 40,000 Americans, including these young angels, losing their lives every single year is not an emergency, I don't know what is.

This House, after 8 years of inaction and pathetic moments of silence, moved a bill, H.R. 8, for universal background checks out of committee yesterday. The least we can do as an institution is to take the small step of passing that bill into law to keep young and all Americans safe.

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my relief that Democrats and Republicans have come together to advance a bipartisan spending measure to keep the government open and deliver for the American people.

President Trump's recent irresponsible government shutdown over his demand for an unnecessary, medieval wall was misguided and hurt our dedicated Federal employees and their families and threatened our economy.

I want to applaud my colleagues, the incredible Chairman LOWEY, Representative PETE AGUILAR, Representative